



# ASSOCIATES: A VOCATION WITHIN A VOCATION

IAD DAY OF REFLECTION

OCTOBER 29, 2022

SACRED CYBERSPACE



# **ASSOCIATES: A VOCATION WITHIN A VOCATION**

- **SCRIPTURE**
- **IAD MISSION**
- **CONTEXT**



# ASSOCIATES: A VOCATION WITHIN A VOCATION

## • *REFLECTION GUIDE*

- 1. WHAT CATCHES YOUR ATTENTION AND WHY?*
- 2. WHAT FEELINGS ARE EVOKED IN YOU AS YOU LISTEN?*
- 3. WHAT QUESTION(S) DO YOU HAVE?*

# SCRIPTURE

- *“The Lord hears the cry of the poor...my soul is thirsting for the living God...I will praise your name forever, my God.”*
- *(Responsorial texts from 30<sup>th</sup>, 31<sup>st</sup> Sundays in Ordinary Time and 29 October)*

# IAD MISSION

- *“As Sisters and Lay Associates of Religious Communities, we are one, united in the Spirit and woven together living the Gospel. We embrace this Mission wherever we are and all for the Glory of God and the good of God’s people in the Church and in the World today.”*



# CONVERSATIONS

- **Associate Vocation**
- **Vocation Within a Vocation**

# CONTEXT



# CONTEXT



# CONTEXT



# CONTEXT



CONTEXT

**YOU ARE HERE**



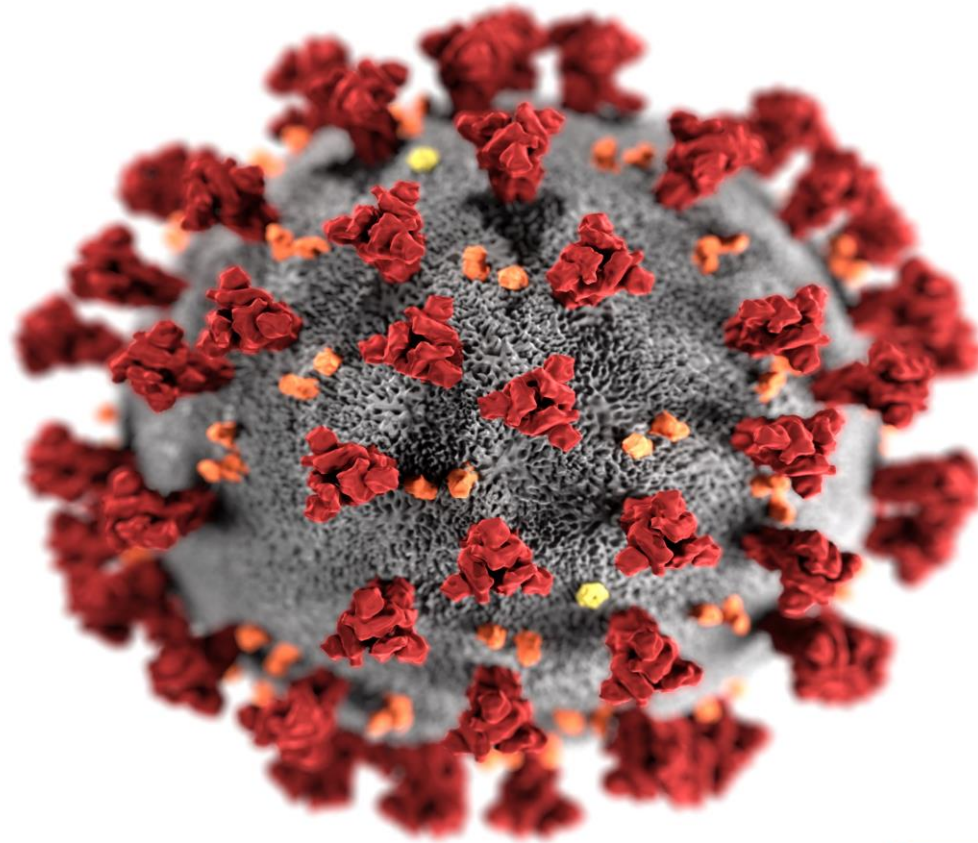
# CONTEXT



# CONTEXT



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# CONTEXT



# CONTEXT





# CONTEXT

- ***THERE IS LIGHT IF WE ARE ONLY BRAVE  
ENOUGH TO SEE IT...IF WE ARE ONLY  
BRAVE ENOUGH TO BE IT.***

*The Hill We Climb (Amanda Gorman)*

*January 2020*



# ROOM AT THE TABLE

- *There is room at the table for everyone...*
- *No gift is too small...*
- *Come on, pull up a chair...*  
(Carrie Newcomer)

# ASSOCIATE VOCATION

- 1. CHARISM AS UNIVERSAL
- 2. VOCATION AS UNIFIER
- 3. COMMITMENT AS UNIFYING
- 4. THE CHOICE OF TRANSFORMATION

# ASSOCIATE VOCATION

- **CHARISM: PRISM FOR DIVERSITY**
- **CHARISM: SPARK/THRESHOLD**
- **CHARISM: SHEDS LIGHT ON GOSPEL**
- **CHARISM: PROMPTS RESPONSE(S)**
- **CHARISM: FREELY GIVEN BY SPIRIT**

# ASSOCIATE VOCATION

- **WE (RELIGIOUS/ASSOCIATES) DO NOT HAVE THE CHARISM!**
  - **THE CHARISM HAS US!!!**
  - ***AND, IT HAS A LOT OF OTHERS, ALSO!***



# ASSOCIATE VOCATION

**CHARISM: GIFT FROM GOD THROUGH  
THE HOLY SPIRIT FOR THE LIFE OF THE  
WORLD AS A WAY TO LIVE OUT THE  
GOSPEL**

**JOHN 17: *THAT ALL MAY BE ONE...***

**PHIL 3: *HE EMPTIED HIMSELF...***



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# ASSOCIATE VOCATION

- **GOSPEL LIFE**
- **BAPTISMAL CALL**
- **PEOPLE OF GOD (ALL)**
- **BODY OF CHRIST (ALL OF CREATION)**
- **PASCHAL MYSTERY DYNAMIC**



# ASSOCIATE VOCATION

- **ONE CALL/MANY RESPONSES**
- **ONE MISSION/MANY PATHS**
- **ONE GOD/MANY GIFTS**
- **ONE MISSION/MANY EXPRESSIONS**
- **ONE COMMUNITY/MANY MEMBERS**
- **ONE HEART/MANY HEARTBEATS**



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# ASSOCIATE VOCATION

- **RELIGIOUS LIFE:**
  - **RADICAL RESPONSE TO GOSPEL**
  - **PARTICULAR HISTORY, CULTURE, CONTEXT**
  - **GOD'S WORK—NOT OURS**
  - **GOD CALLS WHO/WHEN/WHERE/WHY**

# ASSOCIATE VOCATION

- **RELIGIOUS LIFE:**
  - **LIFE (24/7/365)**
  - **PRAYER/SHARED/VOWED LIFE (I/WE)**
  - **CONSECRATED LIFE = CONCENTRATED LIFE**
  - **NOT ABOUT THE EXTERNAL MINISTRY**
  - **NOT ABOUT NUMBERS**
  - **NOT AN INSTITUTION**
  - **EVOLUTIONARY AND REVOLUTIONARY**
  - **DECLINE/EMERGENCE REALITY**

# ASSOCIATE VOCATION

- **ASSOCIATE LIFE:**
  - **RESPONSE TO GOSPEL CALL**
  - **VOCATION TO MISSION AND CHARISM**
  - **RELATIONSHIP WITH VOWED MEMBERS**
  - **DEEPEMED BAPTISMAL COMMITMENT**
  - **LIVED OUT IN PARTICULAR WAYS**

# ASSOCIATE VOCATION

- ASSOCIATED TO THE MISSION
- CARRIERS OF THE CHARISM
- IDENTITY = ASSOCIATE VOCATION
- COMMUNITY = ASSOCIATES
- LEADERSHIP = ASSOCIATES

# ASSOCIATE VOCATION

- UNITED NATIONS = GOVERNMENTS
- NGOs = NON-GOVERNMENTS
- RELIGIOUS LIFE = EVANGELICAL COUNSELS
- ASSOCIATES = COMMITMENTS



# ASSOCIATE VOCATION

- NOT MEMBERS OF ??? INSTITUTE
- NOT “JUNIOR VARSITY”
- NOT “WANNA-BE” SISTERS
- NOT FUTURE OF CONGREGATION

# ASSOCIATE VOCATION

- **VITAL CHARISM CARRIER**
- **VIBRANT EXPRESSION OF MISSION**
- **VIABLE COMMITMENT TO GOSPEL**
- **DISCERNMENT PROCESSES**
- **VOCATION/FORMATION/SPIRITUALITY**
- **COMMUNITY/GOVERNANCE/LEADERSHIP**
- **FINANCE/MINISTRY/SUSTAINABILITY**



# ASSOCIATE VOCATION

- **STRENGTHS:**
  - **SCOPE OF GOSPEL EMBRACED**
  - **UNITY THROUGH DIVERSITY**
  - **COMMUNITY OF DISCIPLES**
  - **PARTNERS IN MISSION**

# ASSOCIATE VOCATION

- **CHALLENGES:**
  - **WHO AM I/ARE WE?**
  - **WHAT GIFTS DO I/WE BRING TO THE MISSION AND CHARISM?**
  - **HOW DO I/WE GROW THE ??? MISSION AND CHARISM?**



# ASSOCIATE VOCATION

- **ENGAGING THE CHALLENGES:**
  - **DENIAL**
  - **FEAR**
  - **NARROW PERSPECTIVE**
  - **ABSENCE OF INTERIOR FREEDOM**

# ASSOCIATES: A VOCATION WITHIN A VOCATION

- Joy of the Gospel:
  - Love over Fear
  - Mercy over Judgement
  - Inclusion over Exclusion
  - EVERY TIME; PERSON; PLACE
  - REGARDLESS of the COST

# ASSOCIATES: A VOCATION WITHIN A VOCATION

- *Laudato Si*
- Everything/everyone is **CONNECTED**.
- ALL life is **INTERCONNECTED**.
- Live in **INTEGRAL ECOLOGY**


# ASSOCIATES: A VOCATION WITHIN A VOCATION

- *Fratelli Tutti:*
- Take a **LONG, LOVING** LOOK at **REALITY**
- **Respond through Gospel life**



## ASSOCIATES: A VOCATION WITHIN A VOCATION


1. *WHAT CATCHES YOUR ATTENTION AND WHY?*
2. *WHAT FEELINGS ARE EVOKED IN YOU AS YOU LISTEN?*
3. *WHAT QUESTION(S) DO YOU HAVE?*



# A VOCATION WITHIN A VOCATION

*EMBRACING CHANGE*

*CHOOSING TRANSFORMATION*



# A VOCATION WITHIN A VOCATION

- *Do Not Fear To Hope*

- *Rory Cooney*

# A VOCATION WITH A VOCATION

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# A VOCATION WITHIN A VOCATION



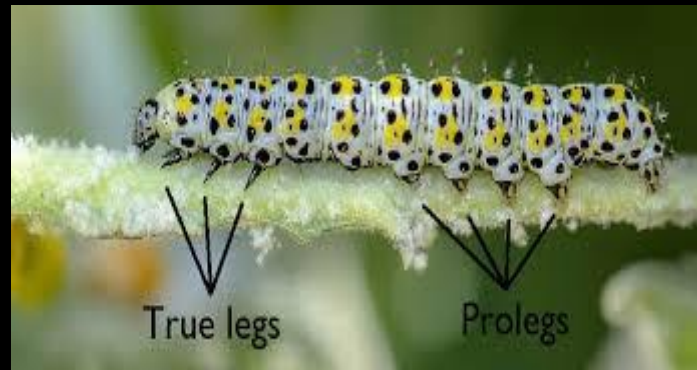
# A VOCATION WITHIN A VOCATION

- **CHANGE:**
- **ALTERATION, REVAMP**
- **MODIFICATION, REDOING, REMAKING  
REVISION, REMODELING**
- **VARIATION, REVISE.**

# A VOCATION WITHIN A VOCATION

- **CHANGE:**
  - **STAND IN THE PRESENT**
  - **TURN AROUND AND USE THE PAST AS REFERENCE**
  - **MAKE A REVISION OF SOME SORT**
  - **SAME FORM**
  - **SAME FUNCTION**

# A VOCATION WITHIN A VOCATION



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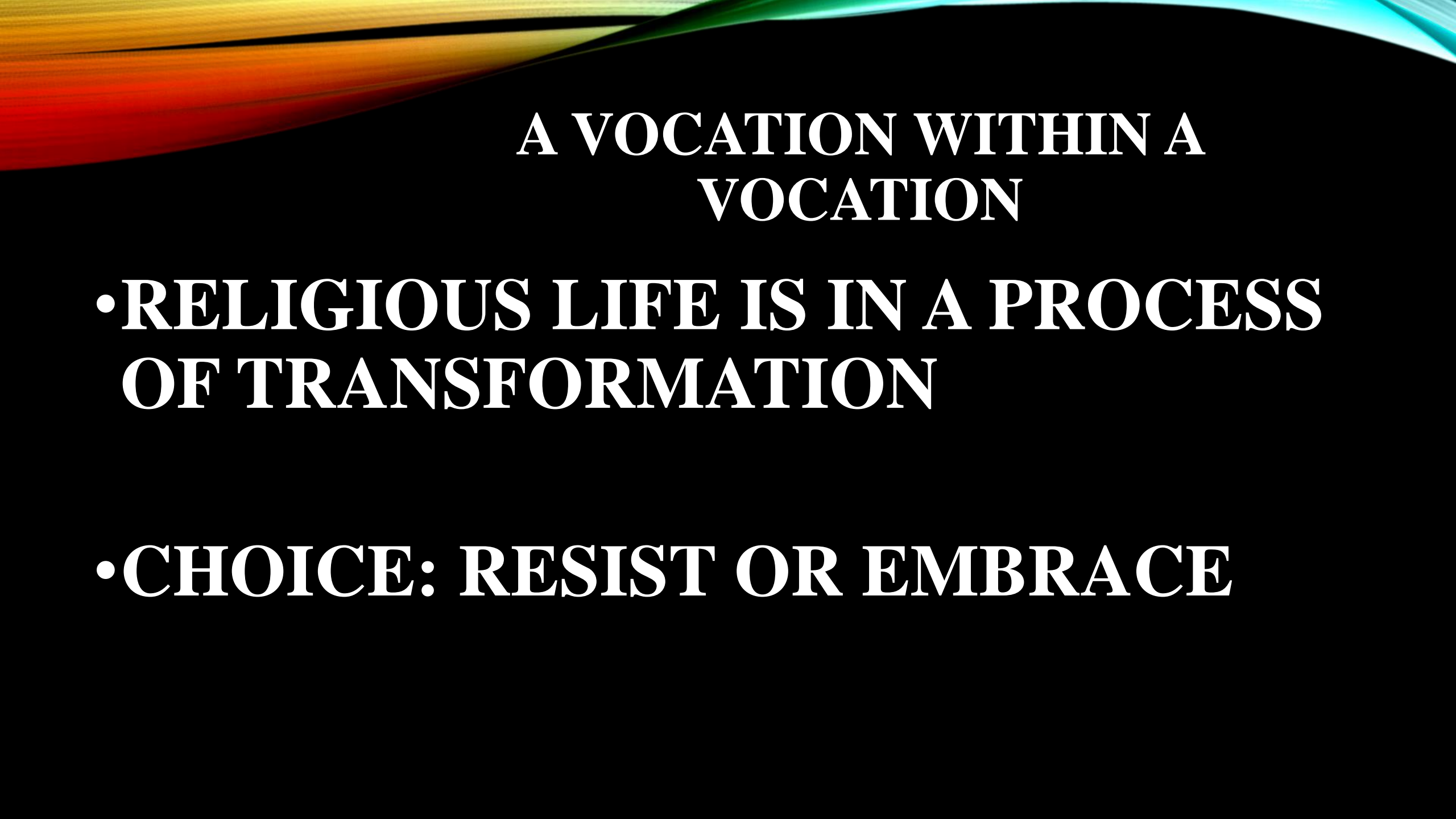


# **A VOCATION WITHIN A VOCATION**

- **IN THE CHRYSALIS:**
  - **SILENCE, SOLITUDE, STILLNESS**
  - **COMPLETE DECOMPOSITION/DEATH**
  - **FROM THE DYING EMERGES NEW CELLS**
  - **CELLS GET KILLED OFF AT FIRST**
  - **CELLS BEGIN TO SURVIVE AND THRIVE**
  - **BUTTERFLY IS FORMED AND COMES FORTH**

# A VOCATION WITHIN A VOCATION

- TRANSFORMATION: A THOROUGH AND DRAMATIC PROCESS OF EMERGENCE
- STAND IN THE PRESENT
- LOOK TOWARDS THE FUTURE AND USE IT AS A REFERENCE POINT
- COMMIT TO THE UNKNOWN
- JOURNEY IN MYSTERY
- COMPLETE DIVESTMENT OF WHAT IS KNOWN
- **NEW FORM**
- **NEW FUNCTION**



## **A VOCATION WITHIN A VOCATION**

- RELIGIOUS LIFE IS IN A PROCESS  
OF TRANSFORMATION**
- CHOICE: RESIST OR EMBRACE**

# A VOCATION WITHIN A VOCATION


MY MIND IS  
MADE UP,  
DON'T  
CONFUSE ME  
WITH  
THE FACTS



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# A VOCATION WITHIN A VOCATION

- RELIGIOUS LIFE/TRANSFORMATION:
- 1. IDENTITY (**WHO** ARE WE **NOW**?)
- 2. CULTURE (**HOW** ARE WE **ONE**?)
- 3. HISTORICAL CONTEXT (**WHAT** IS GOING ON IN WORLD/CHURCH **NOW**?)
- 4. CHARISM CARRIERS (**WHY** ARE WE SHARING THE CHARISM **NOW AND WITH WHOM**?)
- 5. “EVENTUALLY” (**WHEN**=10 YEARS AGO)
- 6. MISSION, MEMBERS, MINISTRIES, MEANS (**WHERE** ARE WE **NOW AND 5 YEARS FROM NOW**?)



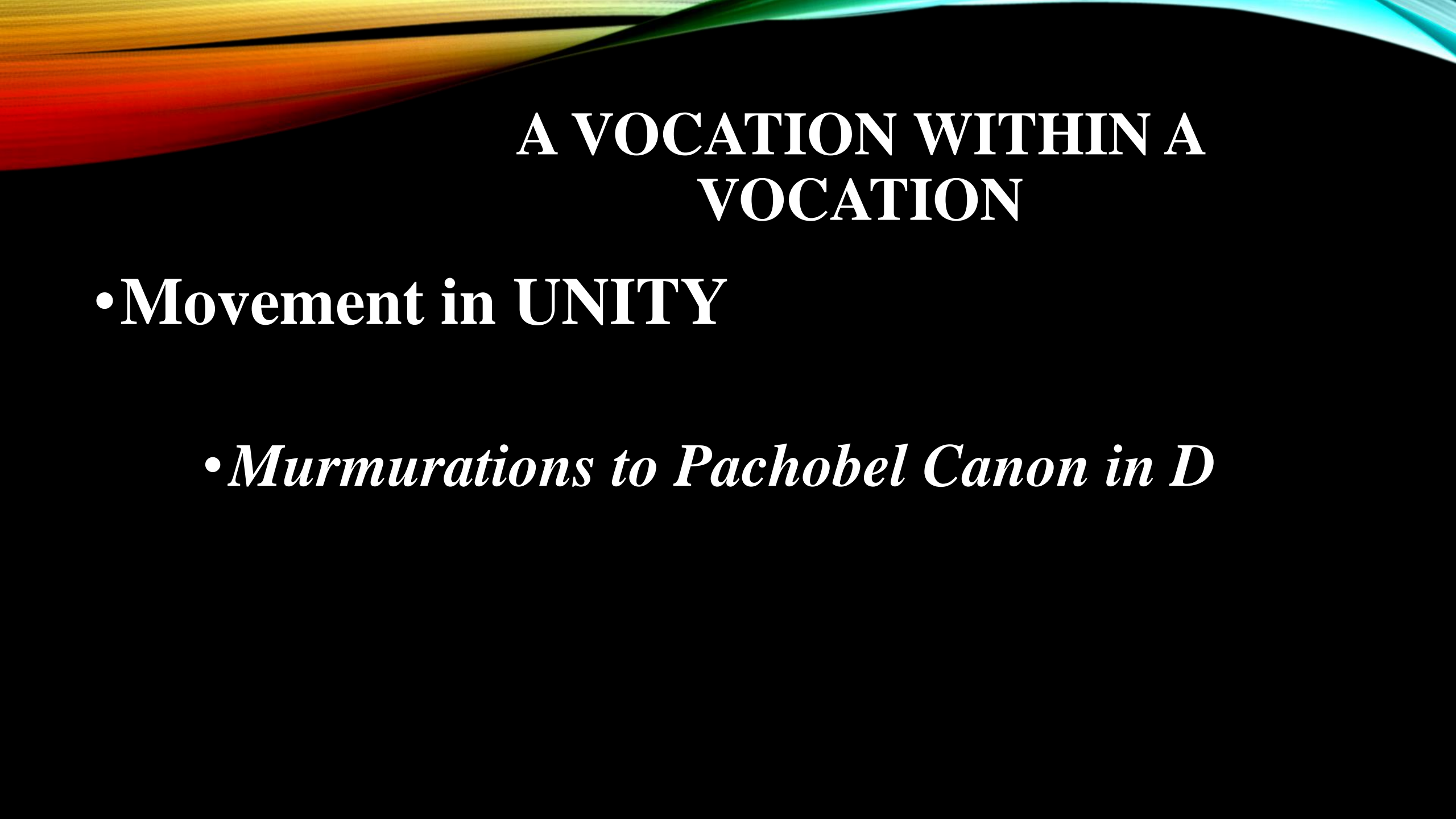
# A VOCATION WITHIN A VOCATION

Moving as **ONE** with:

**RESPECT** for **DIVERSITY**

**UNDERSTANDING** of **DIFFERENCE**

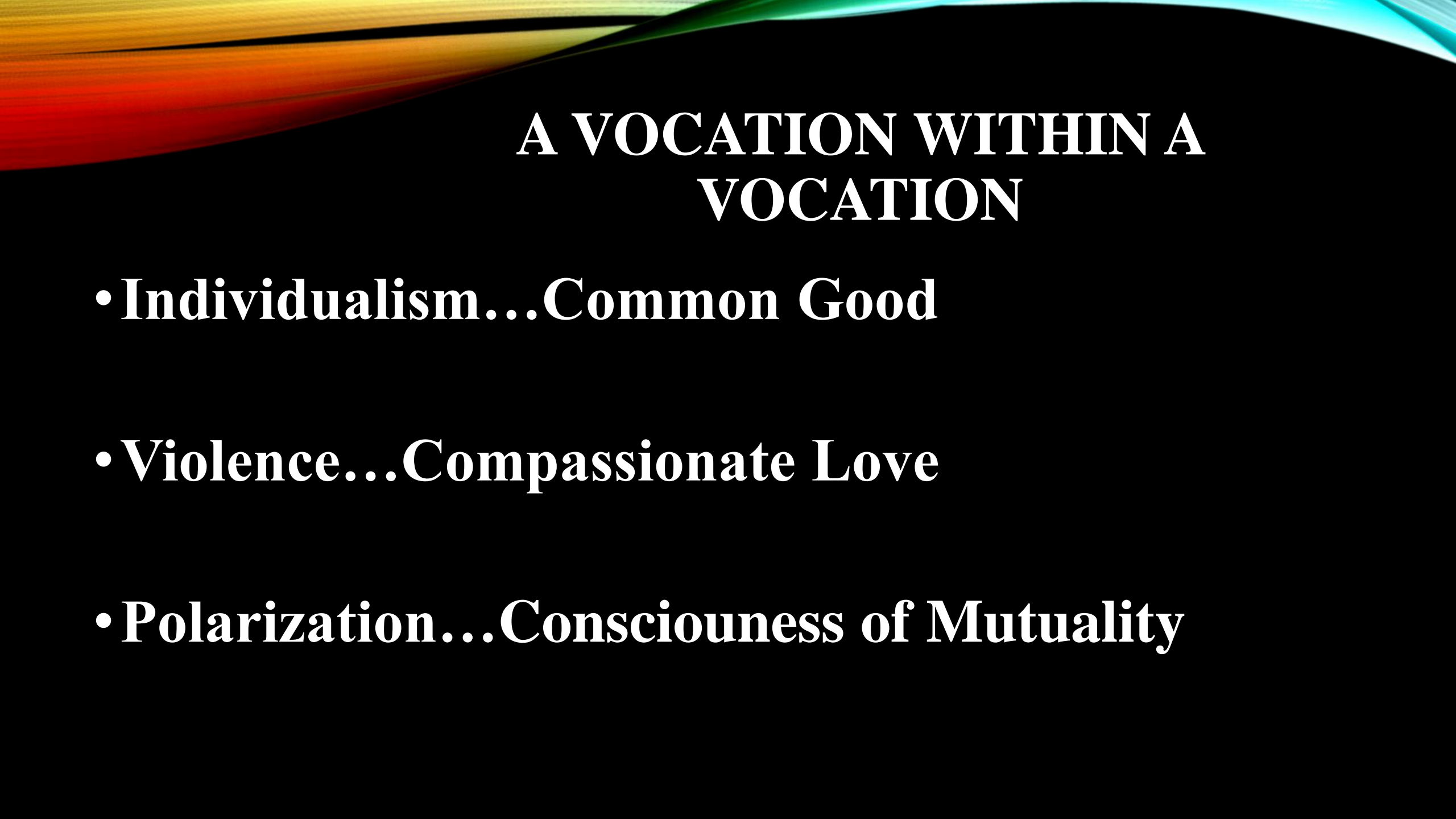
**RESISTANCE** to **DIVISION**



# A VOCATION WITHIN A VOCATION

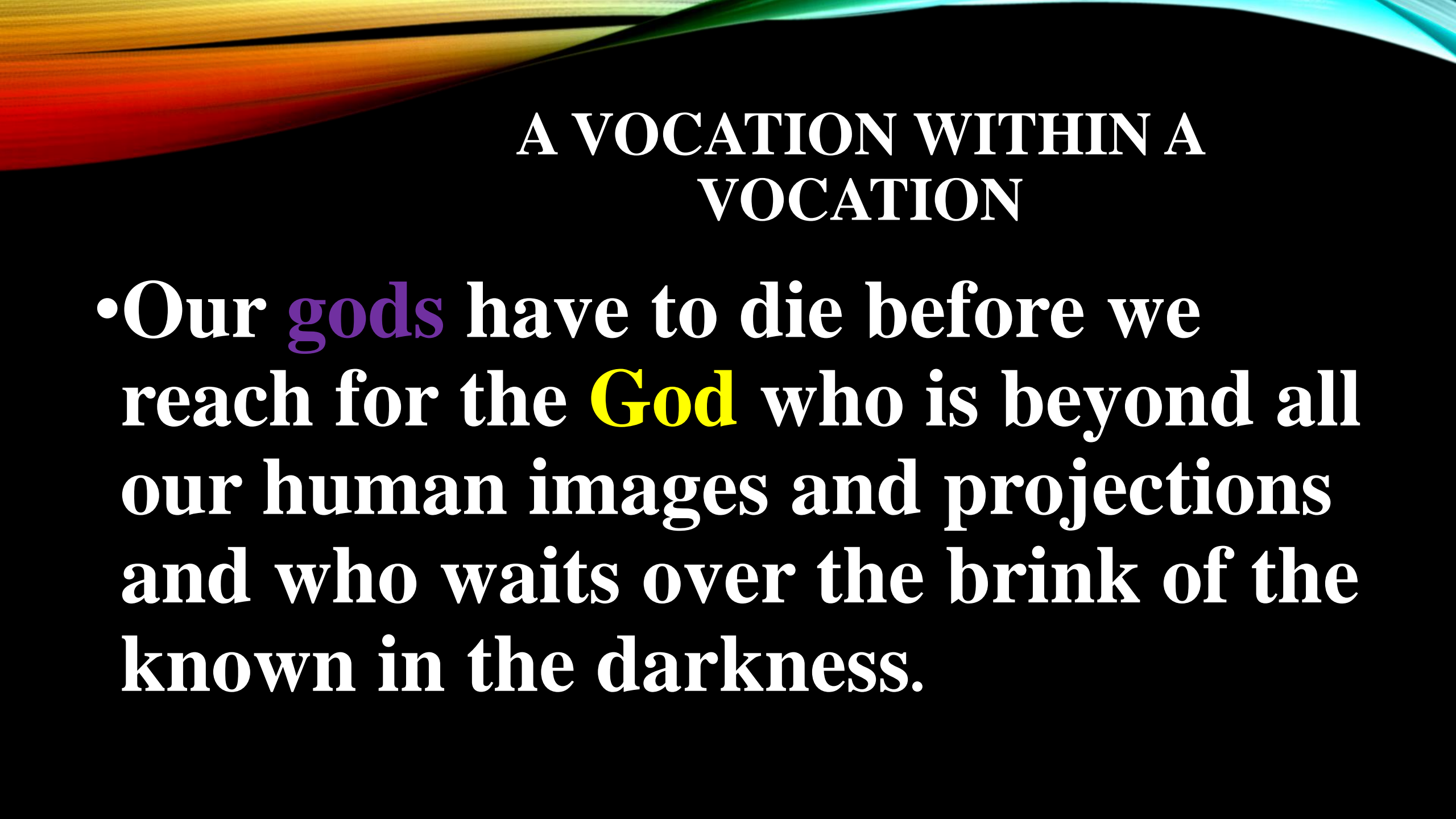
- **Movement in UNITY**

- *Murmurations to Pachobel Canon in D*



# **A VOCATION WITHIN A VOCATION**

- **Individualism...Common Good**
- **Violence...Compassionate Love**
- **Polarization...Consciousness of Mutuality**



## A VOCATION WITHIN A VOCATION

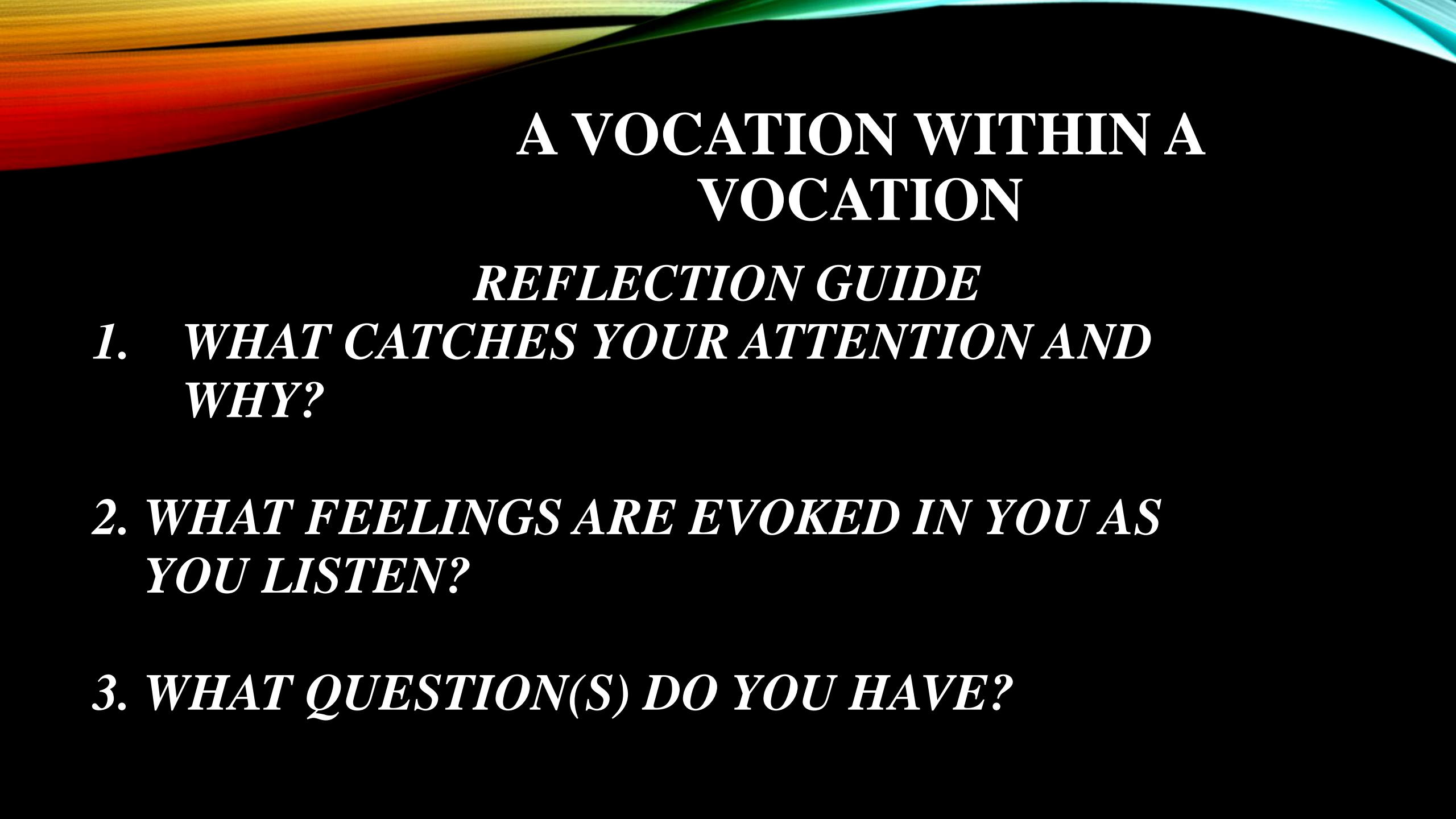
- Our **gods** have to die before we reach for the **God** who is beyond all our human images and projections and who waits over the brink of the known in the darkness.

# A VOCATION WITHIN A VOCATION

- The **signs of new life** appearing among us are somehow the **other side of an emptiness** that paradoxically is not only bringing us **closer to God** but also **purifying** our desire and imagination and moving them toward **transcendence of what has been.**”

*Constance Fitzgerald, OCD*

*Desire, Darkness, and Hope: Theology in a Time of Impasse* p.168



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